You say that your Association, *i. e.*, The Alleppey Lajunathul Mahomedan Association, should be consulted in regard to the nomination of Mahomedan members for the Assembly. Government have no objection to do so and will consider the names of gentlemen sent up by your Association.

158. Necessity for a full and open enquiry by a Committee with a non-official majority into the alleged excesses committed on the 5th Kanni 1097 by the Police and the Military in and near His Highness the Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum, and into the events that led to it and followed it.

Mr. Krishnan Parameswaran (Member, Parur Taluk) said that, by accident, he happened to be an eye-witness to the incidents of the 5th Kanni 1097 in and around the College compound and that it was his sincere conviction that excesses had been committed and that there was every necessity for a thorough investigation into the matter. If the alleged excesses by the Police and the Military were not enquired into and the guilty not dealt with according to law, the memory of the 5th Kanni would rankle in the minds of the student population who were the future citizens, as also of the people of the country. To ensure safety to life and property was the primary duty of every Government. He feared that the Government were not rightly or properly informed of all that took place on the occasion. It was not, he said, by inflammatory speeches or writings that the Government could be persuaded to reconsider the question of appointing a Committee of enquiry. Government had, on the other hand, to be convinced of the reasonableness of the request for a Committee by respectful arguments. He, therefore, requested the Government to re-consider the whole question and appoint a Committee with a non-official majority to institute a searching enquiry into the events of the 5th Kanni 1097 as well as those that preceded and followed them and thus relieve the tension of public feeling and thereby safeguard the fair name of Government.

Dewan's reply.—I have listened to your speech very carefully, and I regret to say that I have nothing to add to what I have already said on this matter. You say that you were present in the College compound at the time of the occurrence and that excesses were committed. If you were present and saw excesses committed, it was your duty as a responsible citizen of Travancore to have come forward then and there and told the Government what it was that you actually saw. Even now you do not say what it was that you actually saw. In the absence of such information, I am afraid that I cannot add anything to what I have already stated on the subject.

159. Responsible government.

Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai B. A., B. L. (Member, Quilon Taluk) represented that the Sri Mu'am Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council ought to be made responsible to the people. The necessity for the adoption of the measure proposed was all the more pressing at present because of the larger desire and widespread feeling produced in the country as a result of the political training the people had as Members of the Assembly, the Municipalities and other non-official committees and bodies working for the public good. Their fitness for the task had been more than once admitted by competent authorities. The immediate cause which made so many Members take up the subject of responsible government for representation at the present session of the Assembly was the students' strike and its aftermath. The subject had been so often and so elaborately threshed out both on the platform and in the Press that there was no necessity for him to make any exhaustive speech. But as one who had been closely following the various events connected with that unfortunate episode in its several stages, he assured Government that he went through the Press Communiqué most carefully and diligently and could not help feeling that he was unconvinced of the soundness of the arguments advanced and of the accuracy of the statements made therein. He had himself issued a lengthy statement containing certain facts, after making a laborious study of the subject, and his conviction was that the action of Government in not granting the request for the appointment of a Committee of enquiry in spite of so many representations in the form of resolutions passed at public meetings, the memorial submitted by the Member, etc., was the strongest proof

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for the need for responsible government. He did not justify the strike as the most effective or lawful means of accomplishing the object the students had in view. Nor was the action of Government in facing the situation created by the outburst of students' indiscretion justifiable. In the circumstances, the only remedy was the appointment of a Committee to make a public enquiry. The continued silence of Government made the people suspicious and was responsible for so many Members dealing with that unpleasant topic.

The Member next referred to the Legislative Council Regulation and the draught rules of the Assembly published in the Gazette. He took up clauses 6, 9, 25, 28, 33, 35 and 37 of the Assembly rules and proceeded to criticise them when he was reminded of the time limit which he had already exceeded. He was asked to put in writing his views and criticisms and send them to Government for careful consideration. The Member then withdrew.

Mr. Raman Pillai Raman Pillai (Member, Quilon Taluk) began by saying that the administration of the country was not being carried on according to the will of the people and that it was necessary to introduce responsible government. In the Legislative Council and the Popular Assembly, the two representative institutions in the State, the members had remarked that the Government was not being carried on in the true interests of the people and in perfect accord with their wishes. In point of taxation, the creation of new posts carrying high salaries and the total expenditure incurred by the State for purposes of administration, the will of the people and that of the Government was not the same. The Dewan was virtually carrying on the administration of the State and such a one-man administration could not be beneficial to the people. The policy of Government in respect of the several Departments like Education, Excise, etc., was not steady and definite and it varied with the views of each succeeding Dewan. To remedy those evils the Member suggested the formation of a Council of ministers to advise His Highness the Maha Raja. The Council should have more than 2 members, the Dewan being the President. The members should be elected by the non-official members of the Legislative Council and they should vacate office when they lost the confidence of that body.

Mr. K. Aiyappan Pillai (Member, Kunnattur Taluk) observed that the most beneficial form of government was the one carried on with the consent of the governed and that such a kind of government was in existence in the past, but that it had since been substituted by autocracy. The average Travancore citizen compared favourably with the average Madras citizen in point of education and the former was sufficiently qualified to take a larger share of responsibility in the work of administration in view of the training he had in the Legislative Council, the Popular Assembly and in the Municipal Councils. In the circumstances, the Member advocated that an Executive Council might be established as the necessity for the same was being keenly felt.

Mr. K. P. Narayana Pillai (Member, Chengannur Taluk) said that it was high time to introduce responsible government into the State and that it should take the form of a Council of ministers answerable to the people carrying on administration under the control of His Highness the Maha Raja. The ministers should be elected from a representative assembly and they should vacate office when they lost the confidence of that body.

As regards the system of administration now being carried on, there was no gainsaying the fact that it was a one-man administration responsible to none. The Dewan who virtually administered the State was not answerable to the people. The evils of such an administration were manifest in the following directions, viz., (1) the freedom extended to Europeans to reside in the State and acquire vast areas of land; (2) the deportation, without lawful trial, of Editor Mr. K. Ramakrishna Pillai for criticising a Dewan's administration; (3) the decision of Government to contribute a formidable sum towards the Cochin Harbour Scheme against the openly declared wishes of the people in a period of financial stringency; (4) the cruel treatment of the students

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by the Police in connection with the strike and the stern refusal of the Government to appoint a Committee of officials and non-officials to investigate the occurrence; (5) the differential treatment accorded to Europeans and Travancoreans in the matter of salaries in the public service ; (6) the creation of new posts carrying high salaries ; (7) the very low pay given to subordinate officers ; (8) the neglect of the Development Departments and consequent impoverishment of the country; and (9) the death-blow given to the vernaculars of the country. This state of affairs could be ended only by the introduction of responsible government.

As regards the popular institutions now existing in the country, the Member said that the Legislative Council had been rendered a feeble body owing to the concentration of powers in the Head of the Administration, that the Popular Assembly was at best only a petitioning House, that the Panchayat Courts had been instituted only with a view to economise expenditure and that the Municipalities were not being given that amount of consideration which was due to them by virtue of their position and responsibility to the urban areas committed to their charge.

In view of the evils pointed out above, the Member prayed that responsible government might be ushered in at an early date.

Mr. V. V. N. K. Venu Prabhu (Member, Trading Classes, Quilon) represented that by advocating the introduction of responsible government he did not mean any curtailment of the illimitable powers of His Highness the Maha Raja but only the introduction of a ministry which would be responsible to the people and vacate office when it lost the people's confidence.

The ministry should take the form of an Executive Council consisting of two members, excluding the Dewan, and they should be held responsible to the legislature. Barring a limited number of subjects, *e. g.*, those relating to the Royal Family, the Body Guard, and the Sri Padmanabhaswami temple, everything should be brought within the purview of the legislature. The Dewan should have no powers of veto in the case of a Bill passed by the Council nor should he be invested with powers to recommend the passing of a Bill by His Highness the Maha Raja unless the same was passed by the Legislative Council. In regard to subjects outside the scope of the Council, His Highness might issue Proclamations. In the matter of finance, no tax could be introduced in the country except by the will of the Legislative Council, for then alone could the control of the purse be an effective check on the Executive. The resolutions passed by the Council should be acted up to by the Executive and if the latter found that any resolution could not be given effect to, it should vacate office. The members of the Legislative Council should have a right to interpellate on more than one subject and the Executive should be bound to answer all supplementary questions.

The Member prayed that responsible government as chalked out above be introduced during the present administration.

Mr. N. Kesava Panikkar (Member, Municipal Council, Kayankulam) agreed with the general principles expressed by the previons speakers.

Mr. Parameswara Kurup Eravi Kurup (Member, Changanachery Taluk) in confining himself to the need for the creation of an Executive Council for the State said that it should be formed to advise and help the Dewan in all important matters of administration. The interests of the people would be best served, if the advice of some of the most intelligent and cultured representatives of the people was sought for and obtained. Travancore was fortunate in securing as its Dewans persons who were possessed of acute intelligence, sincerity of purpose and breadth of vision. But they happened to be foreigners with the result that they left the State at a time when they had understood its peculiar conditions and requirements. If such men of merit were to be helped by the best intellects of the country, they could achieve results which would be highly beneficial to the land. Again, they had in Travancore a one-man administration which had its own defects. If the Dewan were to share the work of administration with the members of the Executive Council, the blame, if any, would be shared jointly and not solely by him.

For the reasons stated above, the Member prayed that an Executive Council be formed with definite powers as early as possible.

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